

The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L.

ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1899

NO. 175

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FURTHER NEWS YET LACKING

Buller's Casualties Larger Than at First Reported.

MUCH PUBLIC EXCITEMENT

Plenty of Volunteers Coming Forward
But Much Difference of Opinion
as to the Situation.

LONDON, Dec. 22—(4:45 a. m.) There is still no definite news regarding the military operations in South Africa. Fortunately this is because the only cable that is now working is choked with official dispatches.

General Buller's casualty list at Colenso just mentioned shows that 18 men were killed and 116 wounded. Two hundred and twenty-seven are described as missing, and of these about 60 are known to be prisoners in the hands of Boers. This makes the total larger than General Buller's original estimate.

Official letters signed by the queen are being circulated by an appeal to bishops of various dioceses authorizing a collection in the churches and throughout England on January 7 in aid of the fund for the sick and wounded soldiers and their families. Intercess services for the men sent in the preparation to send out reinforcements. Various citizen guilds have given an additional £12,000 for six pence by imperial voters besides gifts of horses, ambulances and other pharmaceuticals. The latest notable volunteers include two nephews of Lord Roberts, Major Charles and Maxwell Sherston. Their brother was killed at Goliath.

The admiralty have decided to dispatch another naval brigade of 700 men to South Africa. It is believed that in mobilizing the eighth division the war office will have recourse to some extent to the militia, at long deemed undesirable to denude the home garrison over much of regulars.

STILL NO NEWS.

Owing to Censorship, Details of the Battle of Colenso are as Much a Mystery as Ever.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says there is practically no fresh news from the seat of war. Plague details of the battle continue to dribble in, but on the whole they do not add much information.

The Post's correspondent affirms positively that the Boers captured ten British field guns. Colonel Buller commanding the Devon regiment, with three officers and forty men, was surrounded and all were taken prisoners by the Boers while looking for wounded men under the flag of truce.

According to the Chronicle's correspondent the British mounted infantry and irregular corps, with two batteries of artillery managed to take the Colenso road bridge and eventually cross the river, but the Boer rifle fire prevented them from pushing on and the battery was abandoned. Seemingly the guns were lost on the north side of the Tugela, and if so there is little doubt that they were captured.

The Times says that people who know the country consider the Boer position the strongest in Natal.

Mr. Burleigh, in the Telegraph says the Boers are digging mine trenches, neareing the river and employing a Creusot gun to shell the British camp.

There is still no news of Lord Methuen. His communications have been cut, or else the seniors are determined to allow no information as to his doings to reach the outer world. Some sensation has been caused in diplomatic circles in St. Petersburg by a statement that the British ambassador there had a private audience with the czar in connection with events in South Africa.

The chief cause of the uneasiness which brings back the shadow to English faces is a suspicion that the Ladysmith garrison is short of ammunition and incapable of a prolonged defense. The war office does not admit that Ladysmith is in serious danger or short of ammunition, but the censorship somehow has allowed these alarming reports to reach England. The censor it is apparent, sometimes falls asleep or is drugged by too candid and too inquisitive friends.

Dispatches from Colenso are still coming in, but every one bears evidence of rough treatment from the censorship. It is impracticable either to reconcile these disjointed, fragmentary accounts, one with another, or to explain the discrepancies between them and General Buller's report. One journal after another is forced to describe their own correspondent's

dispatches as unintelligible, and there are strong expressions of disapproval of the ruthless manner in which the censor mutilates the carefully written reports after the battles are fought.

There are at least a dozen questions of fact which remain unsettled six days after this battle occurred. The most important of these relate to the comparative ranges of the Boer and British guns, and the circumstances in which Long's battery was lost. Englishmen are anxious to know whether Buller's army, with a numerical superiority in guns and with a higher degree of skill in the service of them, was without adequate protection owing to the fact that it was outclassed by the Boer artillery.

There are a hundred details which the public is eager to learn about the chief battle of war and every correspondent is gauged and bound and shut off from clear, descriptive work. The English press is much more delicate and submissive than the American press would be in similar circumstances, but it is showing signs of irritation and is on the point of asking whether its star in South Africa is a private enterprise conducted for the purpose of shielding reputations of favorites in the field and red tape ministeries in the war office.

Boer account of the Colenso battle are modest and convey the impression that the Dutch burghers are not unduly elated by their victory on the Tugela.

ARMISTICE TILL MIDNIGHT

Honorable Deeds During the Battle That Resulted in Buller's Defeat.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A dispatch to the Herald from Chievely Camp, Dec. 16 says:

There is an armistice till midnight in order to bury the dead and remove the wounded.

Meanwhile the enemy is placing fresh guns so that they may cover our ambulances and parties.

They express themselves as satisfied with yesterday's battle and boast that they cannot be ousted out of their present position. The Dutch stripped our dead. During the fighting some heroic deeds were performed, the greatest being with the regulars for distinction.

Lieutenant Ponsonby, of Thorneycroft's mounted infantry and Private Carter, of the Naval Carabiniers, attempted to save some of their comrades at imminent peril to their own lives. An ingress man carried by Lieutenant Ponsonby was mortally wounded while in the arms of the officer.

A dispatch to the Herald from Chievely Camp dated Dec. 17, says: General Buller's army moved back five miles today, the march beginning at 1 o'clock in the morning, two brigades going to Frans in order to detect a possible attempt on the part of the Boers to execute a flank movement to destroy the railroad on the British rear.

KRUGER'S PROPOSED PEACE

Is Willing to Stop If England Pays all Expenses and Withdraws Her Troops.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A dispatch to the World from Brussels, says:

Herr Holborn who is in charge of the Transvaal agency here, while Dr. Leyds is absent in France was asked today what truth there is in the report that President Kruger is ready to sign a treaty of peace if Great Britain will ask for no further privileges for the Boers and will pay what the war has cost the Boers. Herr Holborn answered: "No such proposals have been formulated yet. A contingency inviting proposals of peace would be welcome under certain conditions. We have no authority to indicate terms, but if any government desires to mediate, the South African republic will be found ready to treat."

The Times says that people who know the country consider the Boer position the strongest in Natal.

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THE GUNS NOT RETAKEN.

Elliot's Loss Makes the Army Short of Artillery.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A dispatch to the Herald from London, says:

Little credence is placed in the report that the guns lost by the British were not captured by the Boers. Had the story been true, General Buller must have referred to it.

Sir Redver's artillery cannot now muster much more than 30 guns, while the captured British weapons have no doubt been mounted in the Boer lines and can be used, since the ammunition wagons seem to have been lost with them.

STEAD AGAIN BREAKS OUT.

Wants the Clergy of England to Stop the African War.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A dispatch to the World from London, says:

"Peace Sunday in War Time" is the title of a solemn remonstrance and appeal issued by William T. Stead to the clergy of all denominations in Great Britain. He beseeches those who are "at ease in Zion" who have been and are "dumb dogs and faithless

(Continued on page 4)

MOURNING FOR BRAVE LAWTON

His Body Will Leave for America Within Ten Days.

FILIPINOS EXPRESS SORROW

His Death Regarded as a Loss to the Philippine Nation—Relief Fund is Rapidly Growing.

MANILA, Dec. 21.—General Lawton's body will be removed from his late residence to the cemetery tomorrow.

In accordance with Mrs. Lawton's wish there will be ceremony, only prayer. The late general's staff and Lieutenant Stewart's troop of Fourth cavalry which accompanied General Lawton through the campaign, will compose the escort.

The actual ceremonies will take place in about 10 days, when the transports sail.

Civil organizations, including the supreme court, will participate, and Senator Calderon will lead the Filipinos who were associated with General Lawton in the organization of municipalities.

Senor Calderon said it was "the saddest day to the Filipino nation to see but not only the foremost advocate of peace, but their best friend."

Mrs. Lawton bears grief bravely. President McKinley's and Secretary Root's messages to Major General Otis have been posted at the palace where the flags are half-masted.

THE RELIEF FUND

Money Pouring in From All Sections of the Country.

COURTESY NOTORIETY.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The committee in charge of the collection of the fund for the widow of late General Lawton aims to collect at least \$50,000. The first contribution is \$10,000 for use of the army in Puerto Rico. On account of the delay in finding the meat, it spoiled. A board of survey found that the loss by spoiling of the beef was not due to any negligence or fault on the part of the contractors.

The contractor finds that at the time of its condemnation the beef was the property of the United States and demands that the claim be settled accordingly.

BANKER CONVICTED.

MONTREAL, Dec. 21.—Ferdinand Lemieux, local manager of the famous Ville Marie bank, was today found guilty of sending to the government false statements as to the condition of the bank and was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. The president of the bank is in jail and two of the directors are still to be tried.

GOLD EXPORTS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Sterling Bankers predicted today numerous engagements for Saturday. It was believed that at least \$5,000,000 altogether would go out. At present rates the margin of profit on gold exports would be small. It is said, but the demand for the metal abroad was sufficient to make "special transactions" profitable at this time.

GOLD WON.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Charley Goff, of California, defeated the English middle weight boxer, Geoffry Thorne, in less than two rounds before the Hercules Athletic Club in Brooklyn, tonight.

OCEANIC IN.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 21.—The White Star liner Oceanic, reported overdue from New York, arrived today.

VIEWED WITH PUBLIC ALARM

England Does Not Want Home Garrisons Depleted of Regulars.

FEARS CONTINENTAL POWERS

Thrilling Stories of Bravery at the Tugela River Battle—The Queen Was Misrepresented.

DONDON, Dec. 21.—There was no news from South Africa up to 3 p. m. today other than fragment and disconnected stories of past events. This silence has the natural effect of creating forebodings. The splendid patriotism of the volunteers continues to be evidenced on all sides. Newspapers note with satisfaction the effect this display of British spirit and evidence of the resources of the empire is able to command in continental critics. The Westminster Gazette, however, sounds a note of alarm. It thinks the moment is peculiarly unpropitious to send abroad home defenders, since no one is quite easy as to the effect proceedings in South Africa will have on Great Britain's European neighbors.

BELATED STORIES FROM CHIEVELY CAMP, NAVAL, ALL CONCERN IN SAYING THAT THE BRITISH DID MARVELS IN AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION.

THE OLDEST WAR CORRESPONDENTS SAY THEY NEVER SAW ANYTHING TO COMPARE WITH THE BRAVERY OF THE MEN AND OFFICERS.

THE HUNT THROUGHOUT WAS INTENSE.

THESE WERE MANY STORIES OF SPECIAL ACTS OF BRAVERY.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, WHO IS A LIEUTENANT IN THE OXFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY, AND WHO HAS VOLUNTEERED FOR SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA, WILL TAKE WITH HIM 15 MEN AND HORSES OF HIS TROOP. HE WILL PERSONALLY FURNISH THE EQUIPMENT FOR THESE MEN. THE EARL OF WARWICK, EARL OF DUDLEY, EARL OF LONSDALE AND VISCOUNT GALWAY ARE AMONG THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ARISTOCRACY WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR SERVICE IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BOERS.

THE PARTING MESSAGE WHICH GENERAL LORD ROBERTS SENT THROUGH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IS REPUBLISHED IN LONDON TODAY, AND OCCUPIED THE FOREMOST PLACE IN THE AFTERNOON PAPERS HERE, WHICH CHARACTERIZE THE STRAIGHT, SIMPLE WORDS AS EMINENTLY SOLDIERY, AND HAVING A RING WHICH IT IS CLAIMED SHOULD MARK THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGLO-SAXON PEOPLES.

ALTHOUGH IT ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR THE USUAL EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON ITS CONTENTS, THE DISPLAY HEADLINES SHOW ITS REFERENCE TO AMERICA'S FRIENDLINESS AND CANADA'S PATRIOTISM AND HIS REPUTATION OF THE CHARGES OF IRISH DISLOYALTY ARE WIDELY APPRECIATED.

THE QUEEN HAS BEEN GREATLY ANNOYED BY THE UNFOUNDED STATEMENTS THAT SHE IS IN ILL-HEALTH AND PERPETUALLY WEEPING.

THE ALLEN STEAMERS LAURENTIA, PARISIAN AND POMERANIAN HAVE BEEN CHARTERED BY THE